

Book Reviews

A Text-Book of General Bacteriology. By Edwin O. Jordan, Ph. D., Professor of Bacteriology, in the University of Chicago and in Rush Medical College. Fifth edition thoroughly revised. Octavo of 669 pages, fully illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Cloth, \$3.25 net.

Since the enthusiastic reception accorded the first edition of this attractive text-book, no less than ten reprints and revisions have been justified by the demand for Professor Jordan's work. This fifth edition has all of the material that made the preceding editions so valuable as elementary and intermediate texts and has some additional material on the classification of pneumococci, on mouth entamebae, on the Schick reaction, Hodgkin's disease and other matter that presents new aspects. Further than this it seems hardly necessary to dilate upon the merits of this very well known and well liked class-room manual. G. H. T.

Surgery and Diseases of the Mouth and Jaws. By V. P. Blair. 3rd edition. St. Louis: Mosby, 1917.

Major Blair has been made head of the Sub-section of Oral and Plastic Surgery in the Medical Department of the Army.

The new edition of his excellent treatise contains numerous additions. The chapters on the repair of defects and plastics have been elaborated, and considerable material on gun-shot injuries and military dental surgery has been added.

The book is singularly complete. We need not call it to the attention of dental surgeons—it is already their standard guide. We would, however, heartily recommend general surgeons to study it. They will gather many new ideas and a much-needed knowledge of what we owe to dentistry in the surgery of the face, jaws and tongue. L. E.

The Prescription, Therapeutically, Pharmaceutically, Grammatically and Historically Considered. By Otto A. Wall, fourth edition. St. Louis: Mosby Company, 1917.

This book treats the prescription historically, pharmaceutically and legally. The author traces its evolution almost from the ape man to the present day. He dissects it thoroughly and discusses each part in detail. He does not treat the legal status as thoroughly as we might wish. Perhaps he is wise in this. There are so many conflicting court decisions regarding the ownership of a prescription that the question seems to belong in the "how old is Ann" class. The book is one which will help every physician and pharmacist who reads it. The older practitioner will find it interesting and instructive with nothing pedantic about it, and the medical student who reads it carefully, will find added dignity in the scrap of paper called a prescription. F. L.

Hygiene of the Face and Cosmetic Guide. By Richard W. Müller, M. D. New York: Dutton, 1917.

Here is a subject of perennial interest to the laity especially to the feminine portion thereof. That the matter should be approached by a medical man so much in the method of the Sunday supplement is to be regretted.

The volume is a compilation of useful and useless formulae which the author is frank enough to state he has gleaned from many sources. "He has even read and taken from journals on beauty."

The volume is scarcely worthy of serious review. That a practitioner of medicine should attempt to

stimulate the feminine habit of dabbling on chemicals to enhance beauty, when the practice is notoriously overdone already, is certainly to be deprecated.

To gain an adequate idea of the book one really needs to look no further than the publisher's notice on the outer cover whereon it is stated that with a little intelligent treatment wrinkles and spots may be kept at bay. One can imagine the keen-eyed seeker after beauty spying these alluring words on the cover, carrying it off in triumph and a few days later emerging with stacks of masks, vibrators and such creams for wrinkles as the author's mixture of lanolin, rose water and witchhazel. E. D. C.

Handbook of Gynecology. By H. F. Lewis and A. de Roulet. St. Louis: Mosby, 1917.

There is not enough original material in this book to warrant its publication. Here and there is a good suggestion, but there is too much detail in matters of minor technique. A lecturer could, by adding much of his personal experience, make this book the basis of a lecture or demonstration, but to expect others to adopt it is too much. M. I. J.

Impotence and Sterility with Aberrations of the Sexual Function and Sex-Gland Implantation. By G. Frank Lydston, M. D., D. C. L. Price, \$4.00. Riverton Press, Chicago, Ill.

The reading of this masterwork was a pleasure and highly instructive, but to do it justice in a short review is rather a difficult task. From the first pages to the closing words everything is relevant and valuable. The author's enormous personal experience, his keen power of observation dominate every question. We mention the lucid descriptions of various forms of so-called hermaphroditism; the ingenious theory of explaining qualitative and quantitative psychic and physical aberrations and perversions by quantitative and qualitative perversions of the sex hormones; the dictum: that it is probable that no man who had indulged in sexual congress or masturbation to any degree prior to full maturity is ever possessed of normal sexual sensibility in later life; the conservative views in regard to masturbation and sexual excesses; another dictum that the sex gland hormone is the most important of all in the nutritive hormone cycle; the explanation of infertility in some marriages where both parties may later prove fertile by hormone incompatibility; the sane and practical views on matrimony; and, the most important of all: Lydston's experiments and splendid successes in sex gland transplantations. The author opens new horizons in regard to sterility in woman and the possible correction of some vicissitudes of human breeding. He raises many questions, and this work of his is sure to stimulate study and research of all-important endocrinology. Lydston hopes to succeed in greatly impeding the wheel of time in its remorseless grind upon human life. His experiments and experience justify him in saying, and we must agree with him, that therapeutic effectiveness of implanted cells is no more an open question. We hope that other surgeons will follow Lydston's lead, and strongly urge every physician to read this book. V. G. V.

Correspondence

FROM SURGEON U. R. WEBB, U. S. N.
U. S. S. Solace.

To the Editor:

Your letter of February 14 has just reached me. I was detached from duty at Mare Island and ordered to command the "Solace" a few days after writing you concerning the draft for physi-

cians, etc. Dr. Woodward has taken up that work, I believe. We still need physicians. The work increases with the expansion of the Navy. I wish I could write you of our activities, but the censor forbids.

Health conditions are good. Everyone works with enthusiasm, the morale is high, defeat is unthinkable.

With best wishes, sincerely,

U. R. WEBB.

CONCERNING AN EDITORIAL.

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for your little paragraph about the verb "to operate." "To operate" is "to work," and I have often thought when I have heard some of my confrères saying how they had "operated a patient" that they were unconsciously and in truth telling how they had "worked" him.

Very sincerely yours,

HARRY M. SHERMAN.

San Francisco.

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, NEAR WHERE THE CANNONS CAN BE HEARD,

January 29, 1918.

We are at present out in the woods getting back our health from the trip we had coming to this place. I wish now I had studied my French a little more before starting across. However, I am gradually learning the lingo. My teacher has just left on his gallant steed announcing that target practice is over for the day. They are all fond of American cigarettes and tobacco, these French soldiers that we come into contact with, quite often paying fabulous prices.

I have had cases of severe bronchitis, some measles, mumps, scarlet fever and bad colds; rheumatism, tonsillitis and a few operative cases for old troubles. The men got paid last night and were very happy as many had not received any for some months. The Red Cross has been very good to us, furnishing us with helmet caps, sweaters, socks, mufflers and wristlets. The Y. M. C. A. is doing lots for the soldiers and needs all the support you can give it. Have seen lots of country and strange sights which I hope to be able to tell you about in 19—.

If any of your friends happen to be coming across let me give you what I've found out personally: (1) Take along some magazines to read on the boat, as all may not have as good a library as we had on ours. (2) If they play cards, take some along, otherwise you pay dear for them. (3) Candy and gum must be taken. (4) Plenty of cigarettes and tobacco in general for smokers. (5) You can get better exchange for your money at the Y. M. C. A.'s most all the time. (6) Take plenty of changes of wearing apparel and have it handy as you may be separated from your luggage and it may be lost for some time. (7) Watch your luggage as much as possible, as you may have it at the end of your trip, not otherwise. (8) Learn your value of your new money so as not to get stung. (9) Baths are hard to get at times. (10) Eats, you will have to change your idea a whole lot. (11) Breakfast, they have the blackest of black coffee. (12) Milk is seldom partaken of if you believe in "safety first." (13) Sleeping accommodations are—sometimes you do and sometimes you don't, but soon your hips become accustomed to the beds. (14) Candies are high. (15) Wines and other liquors are reasonable, only sold at certain hours to the military. (16) High leather boots are worn considerable, also rubber boots.

(Signed) G. B. WILCOX,
162nd Infantry, Medical Depart.

SAN FRANCISCO POLYCLINIC WAR LETTERS.

Notes From Camp Lewis.

December 13, 1917.

Since coming to Camp Lewis my experiences have been wide. You know when a civilian enters the military the first thing they want to know is how to act. The acting will work if they know how to salute. This is particularly so if they have a uniform on. At first it was hard to pick a new-comer but now it is very easy. For instance a captain rushes up to you beaming all over, and saluting, wants to know where headquarters are and who is in charge. Immediately he is told to go to the Y. M. C. A. Building where Major Latrine holds forth, incidentally asking if he has an old umbrella. He will go and do as he has been told. Then about fifty men gather around for the fun. So much for the funny side of military life.

When first arriving in camp—the Masonic Ambulance Company from San Francisco,—and at that time known as Provisional Ambulance Company "B"—we were met by a Field Hospital Corps from Portland. If it had not been for them we would have probably starved. They fed our company for two or three days, got us located in tents and made us comfortable. After about six weeks of this we moved to the barracks which had recently been completed and stayed in there for about six weeks. We then moved to our permanent barracks in the sanitary trains.

The sanitary trains here comprise four ambulance companies, one of which is animal drawn and three motor drawn. Near the sanitary train is the Base Hospital, capable of holding 2000 cases. It has very fine equipment, is spread over a great area of ground, one-story wards.

The reservation here covers about 14,000 acres of maneuver ground. The barracks for the men will hold about 40,000 and are about three miles long by two miles wide. In regard to receiving instruction officers in Ambulance Companies must be able to command men, giving usual drill regulation, litter, drills and command ambulance work, setting up stations, etc.

There are now several British and French officers in camp giving instruction in hand grenade, French mortar, rifle grenade and poison gas. Imagine men of Mendocino County putting on a gas mask in six seconds. The infantry are already passing through gas every day.

(LT.) RAYMOND A. BABCOCK,
Ambulance Co. No. 364, 316 Sanitary
Train, Camp Lewis, Wash.

From Dr. Sterling Bunnell, Secaucus, New Jersey.

Since the first of the year I have been stationed at Hoboken, New Jersey, the port of embarkation, awaiting the arrival of our San Francisco unit. Have been at first given the job of learning army hospital management. It is most exact but a very smoothly running system when working perfectly. I am now established in the Army Hospital, Secaucus, N. J., not doing surgery, but taking care of my share of the 350 contagious cases and acting as supply and property officer for the hospital. Lieut. Harold Fletcher of San Francisco is one of us and there are but four of us doing the medical work of the hospital.

Recently I saw at the Rockefeller Institute, Dr. Fred Allen of San Francisco carrying out his exhaustive experiments on diabetes. He has done a